

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**Applicant(s):** Hiroki Hibino, et al.**Examiner:** Unassigned**Serial No:** To be assigned**Art Unit:** Unassigned**Filed:** Herewith**Docket:** 19206**For:** CULTURE TREATMENT
APPARATUS AND
AUTOMATIC CULTURE
APPARATUS**Dated:** October 4, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:


In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 52-012982, dated January 31, 1977 (with an English-language Abstract), together with corresponding U.S. Patent No. 4,090,921, issued to Sawamura, et al., dated May 23, 1978;
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 09-168333, dated June 30, 1997, together with an English-language Abstract;

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: October 4, 2005

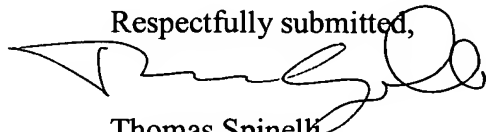

Thomas Spinelli

3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-238663, dated September 4, 2001 (with an English-language Abstract), together with corresponding European Patent Application No. EP 1 266 960 A1, published December 18, 2002;
4. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-112762, dated April 16, 2002, together with an English-language Abstract;
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 60-016587, dated January 28, 1985, together with an English-language Abstract; and
6. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-262856, dated September 17, 2002, together with an English-language Abstract.

The above-cited references were cited in an International Search Report dated June 29, 2004 received from the Japanese Patent Office. Reference 6 is also cited in the specification. Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Search Report. The relevance of the above references has been described in the Search Report. The corresponding U.S. patent is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Docket Number (Optional) 19206		Application Number 10/552115	
				Applicant(s) Hiroki Hibino et al.			
				Filing Date Herewith		Group Art Unit Unassigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4,090,921	5/23/1978	Sawamura, et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
		52-012982	1/31/1977	Japan			
		09-168333	6/30/1997	Japan			
		2001-238663	9/4/2001	Japan			
		EP 1 266 960 A1	12/18/2002	EPO			
		2002-112762	4/16/2002	Japan			
		60-016587	1/28/1985	Japan			
		2002-262856	9/17/2002	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							